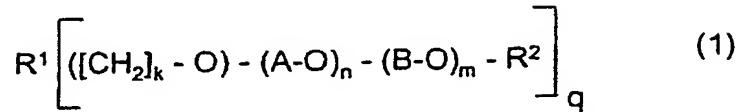


1. The use of compounds of the formula 1

5



where

R^1 is a radical derived from resorcinol (1,3-dihydroxybenzene) or pyrogallol (1,2,3-trihydroxybenzene),

10 R^2 is hydrogen, C₁- to C₁₈-alkyl or C₆- to C₁₈-aryl

A is an ethylene radical

B is an isopropylene radical

k is zero, 1 or 2

(n+m) is a number from 3 to 20, where n is at least 1, and

15 q is 2 or 3,

and where, when m and n are both greater than zero, the sequence of ethylene and propylene units is random

20 as a base oil for formulating lubricants for refrigerating machines which contain carbon dioxide as the refrigerant.

2. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sum (m+n) is from 3 to 9.

25 3. The use as claimed in claim 1 and/or 2, wherein R^2 is an alkyl radical having from 1 to 12 carbon atoms.

4. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein m is zero.

30 5. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, wherein k is zero.

6. The use as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, wherein R^2 is a C₁- to C₁₈-alkyl or C₆- to C₁₈-aryl group.

7. A method for operating a refrigerating machine using carbon dioxide as a refrigerating medium, by using a compound as defined in one or more of claims 1 to 6 as a base oil for lubricants.